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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose

The Country.

The impatience at the continuation of Spanish rule in Cubs is forcefully expressed to THE SUN by a passionate Cuban sympathiner, Mr. BENJAMIN F. ROBY, of Newark. in the oninion that "the devil has got hold of the country." On the contrary, never was the devil's grip further from the country; never was the country more satisfactory and inspiring to its friends and more Impressive to its rivals.

It has for its President a statesman whose personal bravery and warmth of human emotions no one would think of questioning, but whose calm determination to exhaust every possibility of peace with honor deserves from his country the highest respect.

It has a national Legislature patiently and loyally heeding the advice of the Executive, although burning hot with the sentiment that becomes a country like ours when in sight of a neighboring people truggling for liberty.

It has an army and a navy alive with the national spirit, and ready for the performance of any duty that may be prescribed for them.

And it has a people, spreading over fortylive States, whom the fearful trial of the Maine disaster has shaken neither in dignity nor in understanding, and who in their sorrow over the loss of the Maine and in their longing to see the United States play Its part in succoring a maltreated Amer-Ioan State, are more truly united and more intensely fired with a common patriotism than at any time since the making of the Constitution.

Misgivings like Mr. Rony's do not fit the time at all. Never since the beginning of their independence have Americans had occasion to be more proud and more hopeful of their country.

The Defence Work Must Go On.

There are two reasons why there should be no let-up in the energy with which naval and military preparations have lately been pushed forward. The principal one is that the crisis is not yet over and our affairs with Spain are not yet settled; the other, that these preparations are so much plear gain for permanent national security.

Pending the decision on the Cuban question there will doubtless be no actual movement of infantry and cavalry to the seaboard, and in like manner steamships busily engaged in commercial pursuits, but marked for chartering in case of war, may The suffered to go on with their regular

But not one jot of the vigor shown he arming of the forts should be abated, ause none of it can be a sated in the end. he Government has been supplied by Conress with money for protecting the coast and for putting the fleet in complete readiness as to coal, ammunition and other supplies, and it is bound to carry on that work until complete preparation is reached.

Spain, distressed as she is for money, does not stop her preparations for possible war with us. On the very day the President sent in his message about the Maine came news that she had ordered her unfinished armored cruiser Carlos V. from Havre to Ferrol, providing that the French | eral tollet, ought to be made within doors workmen should keep at work on her during the voyage; and other suggestive tidings were that she had bought the large and fast English yacht Giralda, which our authorities had rejected because the price asked was exorbitant.

Thus far, we are bound to say, in not one branch of our own war preparations has activity yet been relaxed. Night work still goes on at the dock yards, the foundries, and the workshops; the recruiting offices are still busy; in Europe our agents are still looking after vessels to supplement the New Orleans, the Albany, and the Somers, while at home the cruiser board is still seeking yachts and tugs to be added to the Mayflower, Eagle, Hornet, Wasp, Algonquin, Tecumseh, Sioux, Uncas, Osceola, and any others up to this time purchased. Not the least significant of these steps is the decision to dismiss this year's naval academy graduates next Monday for sea work, waiving the final examinations, a step finally authorized by the Navy Department, we think, after it knew what the Court of Inquiry on the Maine had reported, and what

the President's message was. In the work of putting the navy and the army on a war footing there must be no pause and no slackening. Not only would such a change be misinterpreted to our disadvantage, but it would be folly. We are not out of the woods, and shall not be until the independence of Cuba is assured.

New York's Canals.

There has never been any possibility of mistaking the view which the overwhelming majority of the voters of New York have at all times held respecting the maintenance of the State's canals. The first canal commission was established in 1816 and the Eric Canal was completed in 1825. Since that time, not only through appeals made, measures presented and appropriations asked from the Legislature, but by direct vote of the electors, the matter of canal management and extension has been passed upon.

The present State Constitution was dopted virtually in 1846, and eight years later an amendment was proposed to it providing for "the speedy completion of the canals." The State at that time was smaller in voting strength than the borough of Manhattan is to-day; but though the proposition was resisted by many residents of counties remote from the lines of the canals and their ramifications. it was carried by a majority of 120,000a majority twice as large as the total vote polled against it. In the year 1869 the proposition to place the canals on a level with the other public works of the State, without the advantages derivable from a separate maintenance, was voted down, and in 1882 there was submitted to the voters the proposition to amend the State Constitution (article 7, section 3) to do away with tolls, the sums necessary for

by general taxation. In favor of this ent nearly 500,000 votes were corded and against it 163,000, and it has

been the law ever since. By the Constitution sdopted in 1894 the chief canals must "remain the property of the State and be under its man agement forever." More recently, in 1895, the first year following the adoption of the Constitution, the clause permitting the increase of the bonded debt for the improvement of the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego canals and the issuance of a loan of \$9,000,-000 for the same was adopted by the almost unprecedented majority of 266,000.

In fact, from the date of the first Canal Commission in New York until the present time the record of the people at the polls, whether voting upon amendments submitted for their ratification or for members of the Legislature to carry into effect these plans, has been uniformly the same. It has been one of support and approval of the canals, for their safeguarding as the State's property, and whenever the question has ean one of maintenance the electors have adhered steadfastly to the policy of liberal expenditures. There has never been a step taken backward; there has never been a halt in the prosecution of the work; there has never been an adverse vote of the people at any time.

If There Had Been No Explosion and No starvation.

It is well to recall from time to time the exact language of the mandate of the American people to the Administration intrusted with the management of affairs relating to Cuba and Spain. Here it is once more:

"From the hour of achieving their own inde endence, the people of the United States have reparded with sympathy the struggles of other Ameri can peoples to free themselves from European domination. We watch with deep and abiding interes the herole battle of the Cuban patriots against cruelty and oppression, and our best hopes go out for the full success of their determined contest for liberty. The Government of Spain, having lost con tool of Cube, and before mable to protest the property and lives of American citizens, or to comply with its treaty obligations, we believe that the Government of the United States should actively use its in fluences and good offices to restore peace and give in ependence to the island."

That declaration was made long before the Maine had been destroyed by an external explosion. It was made long before the world had become aware of the character and enormity of the results of the cruelty of Spain's warfare.

What reason is there to believe that President McKINLEY is swerving, or intends to swerve one hairbreadth from the line of policy laid down in the platform ipon which he was elected?

If the Maine had not been blown up, and f from a quarter of a million to half a million non-combatants had not been starved to death in the island, it would yet be the duty of the President and of Congress to give independence to Cuba,

WILLIAM MCKINLEY has not forgotten!

Boots and Manners.

A question of deep philosophical and social import is herewith submitted:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIF: As we look to THE SUN for our best examples of English, we naturaily turn to it to settle a question of manners. The practice of having one's boots blackened in public s it a breach of good manners? Aside from the ques custom stamp it as a gentlemanly habit? ABGUNERY."

This is a difficult inquiry, and perhaps it ought to be answered by a council representing all the interests affected, the council to be assisted by a board of arbiters of the elegancies, sitting without vote. The conventional opinion is that it is not correct to have one's boots blacked out of doors. We have never seen the grounds of this opinion set forth, but presumably the argument of the orthodox school is that the tollet of the boots, as a part of the generowd. You don't wash your face or comb your hair on the streets.

This argument is not convincing. There are extensive regions where you do and have to wash at the pump outdoors. Russian officers and many other eminent personages, military and civil, are continually combing themselves in public. The strictest martinet among us would not hesitate to tie or rearrange his cravat in public. If the cravat, a necessary article of apparel, save among certain statesmen and friends of man, may be made sprucer out of doors, why may not the boots? Carried to an extreme. the orthodox opinion would forbid a man to pick a thread off his coat or smooth the tresses of his hat out of doors. Can a man button his coat in the street? If so, why so? Should not a rigid etiquette forbid an act which may be described, like the blacking of the boots, as one of external or superficial toilet?

It may be urged that analogy doesn't apply to these mysteries of custom; that the rule exists and has no need of justification. We summon example, then. We have seen a prince of historic name, authenticity guaranteed, a prince with a genealogical tree which few but members of the Order of the Crown could hope to ahin up: even such a prince have we seen having his boots, shoes, or galters polished at a common corner stand in this town. In the language of the contemporary classics, "he had the price of a shine," and he paid it like a little prince; and no doubt he believed that he was showing a graceful compliance with the customs of the country.

Still, we have but touched the bell of the mystery. We have not entered into the inner shrine. Let us go in, slamming the door in the faces of the narrow minded.

Of itself there is nothing moral or immoral in having one's boots blacked in public. It is an action indifferent. Objection: the majority of bootblack shops are in front of barrooms. Answer: It is better to be outside than inside of a barroom.

Thousands of artists are now employed in painting boots and shoes in the open sir or in public places. To take away from them their means of livelihood would be to displace a large amount of labor, produce suffering and trouble. To this it may be objected that if these diligent and frugal artists are not checked. they will soon own the town. Well, somebody must own it.

Does it offend the sense of beauty and harmony of things to have one's boots blacked in public? Answer: It depends upon the feet. The artist always does his best. Don't blame him, but sarcastic nature. For our own part we don't hesitate to say that to look upon a man who wears a tall hat or "slicky," brilliant kid gloves, and other apparel rich and rare, to look upon him as he has his shoes keyed up to the rest of him fills us and should fill every other reasonable apair and maintenance being provided for | posser-by with a new sense of the imperi-

ous demand for the beautiful. In the education of the beauty-sense of the young this

public polishing must have a great part, Formerly "guests" at hotels used to put out the boots at the door of their rooms before going to bed, and dumb servitors blackened the same. We understand that in most hotels and taverns the public blacking stand has driven the custom out. You take the public chair if you have no private and luxurious retainers. You may ose some dignity, but at least nebody will steal your shoes.

Yet there are delicate spirits averse to publicity and with a passion for etiquette. Them we need not advise to shun the public polisher. Their shoes should be colished in secret. If they are of a frugal mind and not averse to exercise, they can do the polishing themselves. Honest labor wears a lovely face. And even sturdier natures must be shackled to some extent by a dread of publicity. You may be bold as a lion, and yet not care to have your Bishop see you eating peanuts. And it may be inconvenient sometimes to be seen in the chair of shine by haughty acquaintances. The tender-souled may seek some place remote from their habitual route. One may not care to have the final splenders of one's tollet witnessed, perhaps giggled at, by 'lady friends." But in a democratic gov ernment people are supposed to have the right to do as they please, subject to the law and so long as they hurt nobody else. The public blacking stand is a democratic institution, although not a free institution.

The Guns of the Illustrious,

Remarkable results were obtained with the wire-wound twelve-inch guns at the trials of the British first-class battleship Illustrious, the last of the Majestic class preliminary to putting her in commission. The heavy armament of these vessels the largest and most powerful ships in the British Navy, consists of four 12-inch 46six-ton breech-loading guns, two forward and two aft, and of twelve 6-inch quickfiring guns as a broadside. The recent trials on the Illustrious have shown that the 12-inch guns are almost quick firers.

While it took four minutes to fire three successive shots from one of these guns on the Majestic three years ago, three 850pound projectiles were fired from one gun on the Illustrious, with an inexperienced crew, in less than two minutes, the second shot following the first at an interval of 58 seconds, and the third shot 49 seconds later. With practice this record can doubtless be improved; at any rate, the wire-wound 12-inch gun seems to come now safely within the category of quick-firing guns. As the projectiles weigh 850 pounds each and are fired at a muzzle velocity of 2,367 foot sec onds, equivalent to an energy of 33,020 foot tens, the performance shows, as Enginerring points out, that, with both turrets crained on the enemy, 10,200 pounds delivered with an energy of 306,240 foot tons can be put into a hostile ship inside of two minutes, an attack which no vessel could survive. There is no reason either. says the same authority, why this rate should not be kept up.

The gain in speed of firing is obtained by improvements in the hydraulic mechanism which works the guns. They can be loaded now in any position, even when trained at the maximum elevation of 1319 degrees. Every operation, too, can be performed by hand in case of accident to the hydraulic machinery. The possibility of keeping up a continuous fire with guns of such large calibre comes from the wirewinding, as no solid-built gun could stand the internal strains produced by quickly repeated discharges.

Another point on which stress is laid in the trials of the Illustrious is that the guns could be fired right ahead. Two rounds fired in that direction at an elevation of one-half degree did "no material damage to the decks," and further trials were deemed unnecessary. In case of war, of course, the decks would not be spared. In these new guns, with the improved methods of using them, England seems to have the most formidable weapon used in naval warfare.

A correspondent sends to THE SUN the copy of a bill which we do not approve:

Monarchy of Spain, Dr., To United States of America. To IT. S. steamship Maine, blown up in Havana harbor Feb. 15, 1896 \$2,500,000 Armament, outfit, &c., of ship 1,800,000 \$66 human lives, lost by said explosion, at

\$18,000 each..... 3,680,000 Total No arbitration; no delay in payment. The dead sailors of the Maine are not to be

paid for by Spain in dollars. Their price is the freedom of Cuba. And for that humanity for-

bids either arbitration or delay, The news of the formation of an immense cotton yarn trust in England is painful news. Have the English plutoerats no dread of the majestic minds in the United States that give so many sessions of themselves to the manufacture of laws outlawing the octopus? Have trusts the impudence to live and flourish in a free trade country? The latter question is hereby referred to the Hon. ROOMS QUARLES

tion of protection. A poet in the Boston Transcript pipes this pastoral on a slender reed:

MILLS, brooding dejectedly amid the ruins of his

canvass for free raw materials and the destruc-

" We meet a maiden debonair. We pass a swain unkempt and kind, Who seem to move without a mind,

On country roads." In what region of Arcadia does this post observe and compose! Why, if he is not feiguing poetically, does a maiden debenair stare at him ! is he so queer a bird in his golf stockings, or is his method of riding so original! And where does he find a "swain"? The unkempt swain was too kind. If, as we suspect, the staring was ione by the poet and not the maiden debonair, he was lucky to escape. The unkempt swain might have knocked all the poetry out of him in

There is much sighing and groaning in Boston because the fire-alarm boxes are bright red on bright red posts. The eyes of lovers of the beautiful and goody-goody are pained. Bright red is felt to be too flery, violent, crude, and cruel a hue, a perpetual fire burning into the souls of the Bostonians. For this town red may do very well, but whatever else we are in Boston we are not, thank BRAHMA, like Now York. We want our fire-alarm hoxes of a subdued and neutral color, say silver white, to match our letter boxes. And if we must have

one round.

fire engines, pray have the gongs muffled. The Hon, WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN addressed to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention these sagacious and enlightened remarks:

"The common people may be impressed or drafte to the army, but the bondholders will contribute either in services nor in taxes to defend the honor f the country in war or protect it against the enmy."

In case of war the "bondholders" will be found just as patriotic and brave as the men

who are not bondholders. Mr. HRYAN may not oare to invest in bonds the co money which he makes by talking wisdom like that quoted above. For one thing, bonds are too high. He should, however, try and weed from his mind the notion that the bondholders are all rich men. Rich men did their duty in the last war. and will do their duty in the next, if next there is to be, but a large number of the bondholders are not rich, more's the pity for them. And a great block of the bonds, held by the savings banks, is really the property of "the producing classes "and not of "the money changers." To a a little unfortunate that Mr. BRYAN cannot acquire information as easily as he acquire money.

The Democrats, Populists, and Silver Republicans of Oregon have united upon a plat-form and divided the nominations. With the vehemency to be expected, the platform cries for free silver, a national money, safe and sound," 'just, equitable, direct, and efficient means of distributing direct to the people through the lawful disbursements of the Government. and so on. It communicates the important in formation that the Government has been sur rendered to the influence of trusts, corporations, and other aggregations of wealth, and that the courts have been packed with corporation lawyers, and of course it insists that railroads and other corporations shall be made to pay heavier taxes. All this is in the usual style, but what do the Oregonians mean by demanding the initiative and referendum "in its optional form" There is nothing optional about the initiative and referendum. It is no elective. It is re quired. It is necessary. It is imperative. You nust have it, whether you want it or not. The Oregon Fusionists cannot switch off this sub ime and supreme issue. States cannot be saved without it.

Prof. BLISS PERBY of Princeton says that Mr. RUDYARD KIPLING'S "work appeals parsicularly to the young." If Prof. PERRY is right, how is it that Mr. Expling's work doesn't appear to the Nursery, which cannot abide Mr. Kipzing's poems because they are different from the conventional and pressed-leaf sort of poetry

A whimsical assertion is made by Mr ALSTON ELLIS, director of the Agricultural Ex periment Station of Colorado, in the tenth annual report of that institution. "There are many good people," says Mr. ELLIS, "not without a fair share of intelligence, who are firm in the belief that an agricultural college should attempt nothing beyond experimental work in farming." Coming from s man of science such an assertion is surprising There may be a few good people who take the extraordinary view of the scope of an agricultural college mentioned by Mr. ELLIS, but w are confident that the great majority of good people of fair intelligence held that, whateve else an agricultural college busies itself about it should never meddle with agriculture,

THE SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH. in Ex-Confederate Soldier of Virginia on the

Cuban Situation. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: War i an abnormal state of affairs, but is often found ed upon the plainest principles of human right and human justice. It would seem that the Cuban situation has reached a state of tension which can be broken only by determined action on the part of our Government. It does not ap pear that there can be any possible escape from this conclusion unless Spain surrenders the island. The United States Government cannot shirk this responsibility without losing the prestige of more than a hundred years of lib Senator Proctor's description of the misery in Cuba is enough

To stir a fever in the blood of age And make the infant sinews strong as steel.

While reading the fearful arraignments of the Spanish Government is occurred to me that f we allowed this terrible suffering and orime co continue longer, we, as a people, would become participants and accessories both before

Is this the nineteenth century, of whose chievements in literature, in science, in government we so much boast? Is this a land of ustice, of Christianity, of mercy ! If it is true that we are a brave, a Christian, and an enlightened people, how is it possible that we can onger permit these unspeakable horrors to be parried on in Cuba, at our very doors? Who is is that has read the solemn and profound utterinces of Senator Proctor whose heart has not ances of Senator Proctor whose heart has not responded with an emetion of horror at a recital of facts that actually stagger reason and appal the imagination? All hall to Vermont! Her Senator is entitled to the gratitude of the American people. Though a Democratistus of the American people. Though a Democratistus of the contrary he has acted well his part. It is undoubtedly true that on the illustrated day of the Mainte diagraps we were not fated day of the Mainte diagraps. fated day of the Maine disaster we were not prepared for war. The President has acted with prudence, with decision, with moderation, and with courage. But the time has now come

with prudence, with decision, with moderation, and with courage. But the time has now come for action.

There must be no mere recognition of the beiligerent rights of the Cuban patriots; there must be actual intervention. We must say to Spain, "This cruelty to your colonists must and shall cease. Stop if forthwith or take the consequences!" This will force upon that nation one of two things: she must either agree to our demand or make a declaration of war. There is no possible escape from our duty, ne tongue can tell, no language can describe the sufferings of the Cubans. They have perished, not by tens of thousands, but by hundreds of thousands. We have stood by and permitted it. Not content with this, but with fiendish forcity in their hearts, on the caim and placed night of the fitteenth of February, when our beautiful warship, the Maine, was in the harbor at Havana on an errand of peace and mercy, they hurled 258 gallant American citizens into eternity without a moment's warning.

At this writing I have not heard the report of

vana on an errand of peace and mercy, they hurled 258 gallant American ditisens into eternity without a moment's warning.

At this writing I have not heard the report of the Board of Inquiry; I do not care to hear; it is known to all inselligent men and women that the explosion came from the outside, and was an act of the grossest perfidy and treushery; in other words, an assasination pure and simple.

Do we need other facts than those to spur our laggard patriotism? And this recalls to my mind an incident I read when a small boy of the ill-fated Lopes expedition. Fifty bave men were captured and ordered to turn their backs and kneel before they were shot. One noble American (Cameron, I think, was his name) among these proudly raised himself to his full neight, and his voice rang out clear and shrill upon the sir as he sheeted:

"I will not. I will never kneel nor turn my back. I have sever kneel to my God as I should have done, and I would see every yellow-livered Spaniard in hell before I welld kneel or turn my back. Shoot and be damned! This is my answer."

I do not pretend to justify the Lopez expedi-

Spaniard in hell before I would kneel or furn my back. Shoot and be damned! This is my answer."

I do not pretend to justify the Lopez expedition, but this gallant American exhibited the intrepld spirit which has always characterized and animated the Angio-Saxoa race.

Away with such sentiments as the first letter of Wade Hampton and the empty platitudes of Senator Bacon of Georgia in his recent resolutions is the Secate! They do not represent the Southern people. We know what war is. We have healisted long, but now, between the banks of the Potomac and the Rio Grande del Norte, there is but one feeling, and that is that the Cuban situation demands action and immediate intervention. If our country should bacely back down and remark of S. S. Prentss of Maine and Mississippi, who said, if Mississippi should repudiate her honest debta, then, said he, "Blot the bright star which glitters opposite her name in the constellation of States and leave but the stripe behind as a fit emblem of her degradation." Catching the inspiration of his bold and intrepid genius, I say "Should our Government refuse to intervene for the protection of the gallant and suffering Cubans, then blot all forty-four stars from the fiss of our common country and leave but the stripes behind as a fit emblem of our degradation." This is written by a plain private of times.

the stripes centre to the dation.

This is written by a plain private citizen of Virginia who was a Confederate officer and fought through the war from start to finish, and who is willing is volunteer at once on behalf of suffering Cube and who knows that he represents the feeling of Confederate soldiers.

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, Va., March 26.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: I just received my honorable discharge from a city resiment, after over five years of service, and now, as the boys mem about to be called out to he of service to their city and ountry. I feel it my duty to reënlist and help my old country, I feel if my duty to results and help my old regiment and company, as the membership is not full, and I therefore consider it my duty to stand by the boys and country in an emergency. But my femployer says he will discharge me forever from the business if I results. My father says if I got net for am wounded he will not look after me. It is needless to cay that my employer and father is the sages mass.

anne man.
Should I rednlist under the circumstances?
And what can I say to such an American father and And what can I say to such an American the whole imployer?

The yellow journals are bad enough; but the whole route is, my father reads that neverspaper without a country, the Evening Post.

Emoonies, Harch Sc. TROSE SEIN-COVERED SERLETONS.

Cuba's Claim on Us-War to Helt, Yet It Is Better Than Some Other Things.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-Sir: These are times of excitement. Many men of many minds are thinking fast and carneslly on problems of national concern, while shouts of anger and defiance, of fear and protest, of approval and encouragement go up from the throats of some who do not think. In streets, in theatres, in pulpits, cheap bidders for applause embellish their harangues with flery words to which emotional hearts and lips and hands respond, and sometimes brains as well. Grave Senators, with aces pale and quivering, recite our woes in language that burns. Little boys run here and there with loads of red-hot "extras," repeating at every step the bark of the yellow dogs-of-wa under their puny arms. And all these are influ onces, and all are at work. What are they mak ing ! The least of atoms have a little weight. Raindrops assemble and the rivers rise. The avalanche is made of snowfiakes, and death and iceolation broud where it makes its path. A nation, like a man, may be driven daft by torment. The tiger in us is wide awake at last, and unless we are careful some heedless hand may let him loose. Net that he should not be loosed, but, if he is, it must be an act of unimpassioned reason, or woel not only to our foolish nemies, but to ourselves.

When the sky is clouded and the stars are hidden, and angry waters rise and strike, the pilot does not take counsel of the wind, or steer by the waves; he watches the needle of his ompass and keeps two points clear in his mind: where he is and whither he is bound. All also is circumstantial, shifting, vanishing; the ompass is his only guide; he steers by that. In this metaphor of the sea, what are our bearings! Where are we, and whither are we bound! The howling of the frantic, the barking of the dogs, the protest of investors, and the sneers of critics, domestic and foreign, should be heeded as are the winds of this disreputable month; they are but "the dust that rises up;" the hissing rain, the flying foam. We have compass: let us look at that.

Our present position is that of a man who hearing a cry for help and soing to investigate it, is struck by an assailant. It is the blow we have received that confuses us. We are in danger of mistaking it for the real issue, when, in truth, it is in every particular a different matter, and should be dealt with as such. We may settle it either at the same time or after we have settled the question of interference in the affair that brought us to the place where we re ceived the blow, but it must not be associated with it nor discussed in connection with it. The one imperative thing we have to do now is to prevent the murder of any more of the people who called to us, and are still calling, for protection. We must put an end to the work of their assessing. The fact that the latter happen to be the same men who struck us is a mere accident of the affair. That we do not like these men is true; that we cannot trust them is plain; but our immediate business with them must not be affected in the slightest degree by our antipathies or our grievances. We are here to

but our immediate business with them must not be affected in the slightest degree by our antipathies or our grisvances. We are here to perform a simple act of humanity, and we must go about it without anger or any other feeling of our own. The facts in the case are these:

We have a near neighbor, so near that his land would touch ours but for a narrow strip of water; there is war in his country, and while the men are out fighting for their freedom as we once had to fight for ours, their enemies go to their homes, capture their wives and children, butcher as many of them as they want to, and drive the rest like cattle into peas, where they torture and starve them to death at their leisure. This has been kept up now for about two years, and the cries of the helpless and harmless wretches have become so plercing and plaintive that they disturb the thoughts of our politicians, while some of us who are a little sensitive about murder can't sleep more than eight or nine hours a day. Every breeze that blows from the South bears a shriller wail to our ears, and every beat that comes brings another skeleton to our shores, alive or dead, for us to shudder at. And we can't stand it any longer.

These cries for help and those skin-covered

is to shudder at. And we can tstand it any longer.

These cries for help and these skin-covered skeletons do not come from the fighters, but from the unarmed—the old men and the women and little ones. The few that are left of these must be saved; and the work of saving them must begin, not next fall nor next summer, but now, or we must quit talking about our "civilisation;" for anything going by that name that can contemplate such things as we are now looking at and keep the neace is a refined and polished failure, and the scener it is forced to sive place to a natural savagery that kills sive place to a natural savagery that kills

polished failure, and the sconer it is forced to give place to a natural savagery that kills people who kill, the sconer mankind will recover its lost heritage of nobility.

Without going into any reasoning as to the justice of royal claims on a misgoverned people, or on any people for that matter, it is enough to say that Spain has shown herself incompetent to rule Cuba or to subdue the rebellion there, and that out of her incompetency rises the stench of massacge. We have listened to her repeatedly while she has told us in one and the same breath that there was no war in Cuba and that she was going to put an immediate end to it, and all the while the shricks from there have grown shriller and the vultures have kept gathering like a black flottilla above that desolate is ad.

International law, precedent and diplomacy,

Cuba and that she was going to put an importate end to it, and all the while the abricks from thore have grown shriller and the vultures have kept gathering like a black fictilla above that desolate isnd.

International law, precedent and diplomacy, all may be in favor of such a state of things. Without knowing, I have no doubt they are, for it was that blessed trinity that stood guard for the Turks while they butchered the Armenians, and that later on protected them while they drove the Greeks from Thessaly. With such a record it ought to stand for about anything one may happen to want, unless he is particular about justice. But the law of common sense should stand for somothing, and, if it does, it surely gives to nations, as it gives to individuals, the right to prevent acts violative of plain humanity and decency. Even on the ground of our investments we should have some rights; it should be understood as an unwritten clause of the Monroe doctrine that any country in this hemisphere so linked with ours that its misfortunes must cost us unney and anxiety, is close enough to give us something to say as to how its misfortunes may be modified or ended. My neighbor, under municipal laws, may close my slaughter house as a nuisance and a detriment to his property. Abattolrs are restricted everywhere, and those now running in Cuba must be closed and cleansed.

To go on sending food and clothing and nurses to the dying reconcentrades without going further and putting an end to the cause of their frightful condition, is only temporizing a matter that should be settled now and foreer. The incendiaries, torturers and child killers in the royal service of Spain must be called home by their beliewelled employers. Nothing short of this will do, and as nothing but outright and determined intervention by the United States will insure it, it is time we take measures to that end. This Cuban question is a thistle which we must grasp roughly or it will prick us. We were touching it with our finger the winds the house of the pre

bables.

As to the other powers, they cannot consistently, in the light of all the facts, oppose such a course on our part; but if they should, what of it? It would not be the first time we have had the world against us, nor the first time we have been right while everybody else was wrong. But, right or wrong, in company or alone, let us do our duty as we see it, and leave the rest to those who make laurels and obituaries,

Jason Boxarp.

JASON DONALD, SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 28.

To the Epston of The Sun-Sir: Knowing that THE SUN is vitally interested in all that concerns the welfare of our public parks, I appeal to you to enter protest against an outrage which is about to be per-

mitted in Pelham Bay Park.

One Joseph Shoch has obtained a permit from the Park Board to erect a building in said park opposite Park Board to erect a building in said park opposite Bartow station, on the Hariem River branch of the New York, New Haven and Kartford Raliroad, to be occupied by him as a common barroom.
This shoch was the tenant of a building which stood upon the same afte until last October, when it was ordered sold by Commissioner McMillan.
To say the least, I think it an act of uncalled-for discourtesy for the present Commissioner to undo the work of his predecessor in the eld board.
There are already six houses of refreshment in the park (a sufficiently large number to supply the needs of whatever people may visit it).
I doubt whether the Commissioners can legally permit as outsider to erect a building in the park, I have always underwead that only the city itself could expect buildings on its own property.

JOHN SIRPRON.

ART NOTES.

Exhibition by Ten American Painters at Bu-

d-Huel's Callery The first exhibition of Ten American Painters opens to-day at Durand-Ruel's gallery, 389 Fifth avenue. There are forty-four pictures in the exhibition, counting them on the walls, for the catalogue, a neat little book giving the names of the painters and the titles of the plotures, is quite useless as a catalogue. If you know when you look at a picture that it must have been painted by a certain member ten you can find which one of his works it is by turning to the page containing his group. you do not feel sure of the identity of the painter you must nunt through all the lists till you find the number. "Portrait," No. 4, by Mr. Simmons, seems to be missing. Most of the pictures are hung in groups on the east, west, and north walls. On the south wall they are hung at random. The gallery presents a rather ragged appearance, as the groups are not separated by spaces and the panels do not balance.

The ten artists who make this exhibition, it

will be remembered, were all members of the

Bodety of American Artists, but without stat-

ing any grievance at any of the meetings of the

society resigned in a body just after the election

of the jury last December. Five of the resign-

ing members had been elected on the jury, and

one of the five was on the Hanging Con

The society filled their places, and no harm resulted, nor has the exhibition suffered. Regret was expressed, of course, at the loss of the members, some of among the best painters in the so-clety. The realgning members afterward said that the society was becoming too commercial in its tendencies, and they felt bound to leave it. Such of them as were academicians, how ever, did not resign from the academy, and several of the resigning members are now exsibiting at the academy, though they are neither academicians nor associates. Search for a good reason for their action in resigning has not so far been successful, for they might have remained members and at the same time have given their group exhibition. The action did not, as it happened, imperil the success o the society, bound as it is by a lease o twenty-one years to the American Fine Arts society, and compelled to fulfil its agree ment with that organization, but it might have lone so. In short, the departure seems to have been a Mugwump movement pure and simple, The present interest of the public lies in the ex hibition, and its inauguration as a move in artis tio politics may be dismissed for discussion, it there be any more discussion, to the gathering in the societies and clubs.

We should not be on the lookout for novelts

in pictures, for old things and old ways are often the best, but so far as new views are con corned it may be said at the outset that this exhibition presents but little. It is interesting to find in one room four canvases by Mr. Dewing and they are all of good size. Mr. Robert Reid has tried some new motives, painting young women out of doors and treating his subject rather decoratively, while at the same time striving for subtle effects of light and color. Mr. Simmons's two portraits are notable 'Portrait," No. 5, and "Study," No. 44, for both are well constructed, luminous, and thoroughly same in method. The portrait of gentleman is especially good as a study of char acter. Both are soundly painted. Some of Mr. Hassam's pictures have foreign subjects, and it is interesting to see how he treats them. They are handled with the same technical process naturally, that we have been familiar with in his American outdoor studies. "St. Germain l'Auxerrois" (not de l'Auxerrois"), No. 27, seems lacking in truth of local color, but "Hay making, Pent-Aven," No. 23, portraying Brittany sunshine, has a faithful look. Mr. Weir exhibits eight pictures, mostly landscapes, in work of decided merit and much distinction of style, "Noonday Rest," No. 13. It is fine in color and entirely veracious. On the opposite wall is another picture by him, "The Green Bodice," No. 39, a three-quarter length figure of a young girl standing in profile by a mirror relecting her in full face, which is in every way enjoyable, and is painted with great truth of observation. Mr. John H. Twachtman has six canvases, some of them landscapes, but the most pleasing and the one containing most of the true feeling of out of doors is the view in a garden with figures in white, "On the Terrace," No. 35, Mr. Edmund C. Tarbell shows four pictures, all figure subjects, of which "Girl in Pink and Green," No. 29, is the most ambitious, and the more simple study, "Girl with Azaleas," No. 32, the most successful. Mr. Metcalf has a portrait of a gentleman and small canvas containing a number of small nude figures very cleverly drawn, "Death of Orpheus." No. 21, Mr. Joseph R. De Camp ex hibits two studies of the nude, "The Reflections" No. 9, and "Magdalene" No. 10 the latter excellent in color. By Mr. Frank W. Benson there are four studies of young women in Mr. Dewing's three picmodern costumes. tures, "Portrait," No. 1; "Portrait," No. 3, and In Green," No. 40, are all charming in sentiment, and No. 3 is a beautiful drawing. He has

the evenings.

painted them all in a very low key, and they are

remarkable for distinguished color schemes. Mr. Reid's "The Trio," No. 6, is notable for its

grace of action and fresh, delicate color. The

exhibition will continue to April 16, being open

rem 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. It will not be open in

To the Editor of The Sus-Sir: The interesting article from the London Spectator as to whether quadrupeds talk, copied in THE SUR of March 28. 1898, recalls to me an incident which may be in-teresting, and which bears directly upon the question. Some years ago I was camping up in Westcheste who owned a mongrel dog of surprising intelligence The fellow himself was an expert at woodcraft, and he had an extensive knowledge of the habits and

We were at his place one day, and while chatting with him, heard the dog bark down in a meadow

nature of animals.

some distance away. rabbit in the fence." I asked him how he knew t was a rabbit and how he knew it was in the fence, and he replied: "I can tell from the way he barks." We went down and found that he had said truly it was a rabbit in the fence, and we quickly de-

it was a rabbit in the fence, and we quickly despatched it.

A few days later, when calling on the same man, we heard the dog bark away up on the mountain, a full half mile away, and this time the man said:

"He's got a coon in a tree."

As it was then about 11 A. M., a time when coons would be quite unagst to be stirring. I felt sure that this time he was mistaken.

We hurried up the side of the mountain and found that the dog had treed a huge domesticated cat, which had renounced civilization and taken to an independent life in the woods.

When I spoke to the man of the mistake he had made he rapiled, "I din't make any mistake it was the dog made the mistake. He shought he had treed a coon and that's the way he barked; the mistake is on the dog."

the dog made the mistage. He thought he had treed a coon and that's the way he barked; the mistake is on the dog."

One day last week I was looking out on the little park in front of my window when a lady, seconnamied by two Scotch collies, passed. A couple of terriers were playing in the park, and the collies immediately left their mistress and ran over there, too, playing with them. She blew her whistle and one of the dogs, quite evidently the older of the two, responded to it at once, but the younger continued to aport about with the terriers. The lady blew her whistle again and again, but no attention was paid toli. All this time the old dog had stood by her tide watching the fun in the park. Now he opened his mouth, gave one short bark, and at once the other dog left his play fellows and came running to the lady, and the three tenseed down the afrect togother.

To my mind there could be no other explanation than that the old dog had said "Come."

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29,

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

Mrs. Olegard Jacobson, a widow, has sued John Kel dahl for \$1,200 damages, alleging that the defendant did wickedly, feloniously, and with malice aforethought take, steal, and carry away one kiss, the same being the personal property of the plaintiff."

The Business End of Pingreeism. From the Iron Mountain Press.

Pingreeism means the political advancement of man who is vain beyond description, agregiously ig-norant, insanely ambitious, and as putty in the hauds of a conscienceless clique, looking solely after the dollars they get out of it.

Deep Red Triplets for Menne State From the Penn Yan Democrat.

BRITISH CARYED A BACCEUS.

sack and holding in his arms before him a basket

of fruit-grapes, lemons, peaches, and pears, all colored so naturally as to tempt the youthful

ers of a Ship of the Reyal Navy Perche

the Jolly God on a Tree for an Amesican From the Williamste Journal, I went to Windham to a training more than sixty years ago, and my father showed me the image called Little God Bacchus. It was perched on the outstretched arm of a great slm tree that stood directly in front of the Stamford House. The figure represented the folly God Bacchus, nude and chubby, sitting astride a

of fruit—grapes, lemous, peaches, and pears, all colored so naturally as to tempt the youthful passer-by.

This strange image had a most singular his tory. On the 10th of June, 1776, the Americans captured in Long Island Sound the British ship Bombrig. Capt. Sneyd of the royal navy. Four of the prisoners, including the Captain, were brought to Windham and lodged in the old Isli, where they remained for several months. Their names were Edward Sneyd, commander; John Coggin, beatswain; John Russell, ship's carpenter, and William Cook, seaman. The fate of their fellows is unknown. The widow Carey, afterward Mrs. John Fitch, was at that time landings of the inn adjoining the jail. Her kindness to the prisoners warmed their hearts with gratitude and inclined them to the only return in their power, the carving of this wooden image for a keepsake. In 1872 the image was removed to Hartford and placed in the window of A. E. Brook's restaurant on Main street.

It may be of interest to the reader to know the fate of those British prisoners who wrought under so many discouragements so lasting a mark. Their story was published in the New London Garette of November 29, 1776. By some means the four men managed to escape from isli and make their way to Novwich, hoping its reach Long Island and regal a the British Army. The Gazette asya: "Tuesday night last John Coggin, late boatswain of the Bombrig, whe with three other prisoners broke out of Windham Juli, was found on board a brig in this harbor. He gives the following account of said prisoners: That the night after breaking out of Jail they stole a cance near Norwich landing, in which they attempted to cross the Sound to Long Island, but at the entrance of the "Race," near Gull Island, the cance upset and all of them except Coggin were drowned."

Carious Complication of a Virginia Murder Case From the Manassas Journal,

In the jail of this county is a man charged with murder. He has been tried twice, and is now awaiting a third trial. When first arraigned he was prosecuted by the Hon. W. S. White, Commonwealth's Attorney for Stafford, who has since died. His new trial, soon to take place, was granted by Judge W. S. Barton, who place, was granted by Judge W. S. Barton, who has since died. Judge C. H. Ashton, who presided over the County Court which twice tried the man, has since been defeated for the Judgeship, and is no longer Judge. The Hon. R. H. L. Chiebester, who prosecuted the prisoner at the second trial, is now Judge of the trial court. The Hon. John E. Mason, who assisted Commonwealth's Attorney Chichester in the prosecution, has since been made Judge of the Circuit Court, and now occupies the late Judge Barton's place. The Hon. T. Weldon Berry, who was counsel for and defended the prisoner at the former trials, has since been made Commonwealth's Attorney, prosecutor for that county. Seven lawyers, including Judges Barton and Ashton, have figured in the trials of this prisoner, two of whom have died, and of those living, the Hon. W. R. Little, Jr., of counsel for defence, is the only one who has not been disqualified by peculiar circumstances, and the changes which they have wrought, for all services connected with the case.

News comes from Stafford unofficially that the case will have to be removed for trial to some other county, or else a Judge from another county will have to preside over the Stafford court when the matter comes up, and a prosecuting attorney will have to be "imported," too, if the case is not removed. has since died. Judge C. H. Ashton, who pre-

Faith Pailed After Patient Learned He Had Taken the Wrong Homedy. From the Philadelphia Record.

" You may talk as you please about this Christian science business, but faith plays a big part in the cure of some ailments," remarked a Reading Railroad conductor. "Take the case of Carl Chamberlain, one of our brakemen. Carl had been troubled ith a bad cold for a week or so, and Thursday night, when he got off duty, and reached his home in Norristown, he decided to take a hot mustard foot bath. His wife was sound asleep in bed, but the friend who had recommended the treatment to him had fully explained how he should go about it, and so he didn't disturb his good wife. He scalded his fees a bit, but he didn't mind that, for when he awoke next morning he assured his wife that he felt tip-top. 'Took a mustard bath last night's said he, 'and that fixed me.' 'Where did you take it i' asked his wife. Down in the kitchen.' Brought your mustard home with you, ch'f'. No, certainly not; found it in. a tin box is the dresser.' His wife laughed loud and long. 'Why, said she, 'we're out of mustard. Thas must have been the cocco box.' Sure enough it was He had not noticed the label. Now comes the funny part. Carl actually was clear of his cold that morning. His faith had cured him, seef But as soon as he found out that he hadn't taken his friend's remedy at all he began to hawk and hark until, what with his strong imagination and his disgust with himself, he actually brought the cold back on himself." been troubled ith a bad cold for a week or so,

Foreign Notes of Beal Interest.

Sir Richard Quain, President of the General Medi editor of the "Dictionary of Medicine," is dead at the age of 82 years. Admission to Holyrood Palace and Chapel will

hereafter be free, the British Government having deontinue the taking of fees James Doel, now 94 years of age, is believed to be the oldest living actor in England. He was a general utility man, and acted in minor parts with the

Kean. Bombay newspapers are responsible for the tale of a local every which has built its nest of anframes stolen one by one from the stock of a Babos optician.

Italy has followed New York's lead in fighting the spitting habit. Notices in many street and railroad cars request passengers to abstain on the grounds of decency and health. Mr. Les of Worcestershire sauce fame left an estate

of \$5,850,000; his partner, Perrin, left nearly as much. They began life as druggists in a small way in an English country town. Münster, in Westphalia, has a public school which has just celebrated the cloven hundredth anniver-

and was originally a convent school. One French citizen is doing his best to save his country from depopulation. A new recruit in Paris startied the Enrollment Board by announcing that he was the thirty-fourth child of his father.

sary of its foundation. It is the St. Paul Gymnasium

"Runger stones" have been seen in the Rhine this winter. They appear only when the river is very low, and the date of their appearance is then cut nto them. They are believed to forebode a year of bad crops.

During the academic year 1896-97 the twenty-onerman universities granted 2,371 doctors' degrees, 1,187 of them in medicine, 829 in philosophy, 335 in aw, and 20 in theology. Erlangen scems to be the favorite place for the final examination, 832 degrees having been taken there.

England has learned a leason from the Jameso aid. Mr. H. Cavendish, who was making preparations to lead a large and heavily armed "scientific" expedition into the country on the southern border of Abyssinia, has been notified by the Government that it is advisable for him to postpone his project.

At Boubaix, one of the Socialist strongholds of France, the 11,000 public school children receive free food and clothing at the expense of the town. Their dinner at school consists of soup, bread, vegetables, meat, and a glass of beer. At the beginning of summer and of winter each child receives a complete suit of clothes.

Frascuelo, the bull fighter, the most famous of mod practice, the ball ngater, the most famous of mod-ern Spaniards, died recently of pneumonia. His name in private life was Salvador Sanches. He was the last representative of the old senool of espadas, who fought the bull while he was fresh, and did not try to tire him out first by tricks. He is said to have left a fortune of several millions of pesstas.

Munich beer drinkers put away 566 litres of beer spiece during the year, which is less than four steins aday for each man, woman and child. At Nuremberg the yearly consumption is \$21 litres a head, as Prague 172 litres, at Berlin 160 litres, and at Vienna 142 litres. The smallness of the Paristan "bocks" 19 probably the reason for Paris's consuming only 11 litres a head of beer during a whole year.

Capt, Sverdrap will take with him in the Fram to North Greenland next summer a crew almost as queer as that engaged in the hunting of the Spark. It will consist of a naval Lieutenant, a cavalry Lieutenant, s geologist, a zočlogist, a botanist, a doctor who is also a meteorologist, a stermman, a student, a sca cook, a "marine cannonier," a harpooner, two ma-chinists, and two stokers, but no plain sallormen. Only sixteen persons will take part in the expedition.

"Whuppity Scoorie" was celebrated at Lenark on March 1, as it has been for 200 years past. The schoolboys gathered at the burgh cross in the evening with their caps tied to a pi ce of string. At 6 o'clock the church bell rang, when they marched round tha church three times and then made a rush for the Wellgair, where they fought the boys of New Lanark, using only the caps as weapons, and after driv-ing their opponents back marched through the town chanting an assistateong of triumph.